

MINUTES OF RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2019

The Regular Meeting of Council of the City of Ravenna was called to order at 7:00 P.M., February 4, 2019 by Council President Joseph Bica.

The following were present on the roll call: Andrew Kluge, Bruce Ribelin, Paul Moskun, Robert Kairis, Amy Michael and Matt Harper. Also in attendance were: Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kim Cecora; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Geoff Cleveland; Bob Finney, City Engineer; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Larry Selinius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio and Clifford Soudil of 464 Woodland Street, Ravenna, Ohio.

A motion was made by Mr. Ribelin, seconded by Mr. Kluge to excuse Mr. Rainone. **Voice Vote: All Ayes.**

MINUTES: A motion was made by Ms. Michael, seconded by Mr. Kairis to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting minutes of January 7, 2019; Special Council meeting minutes of January 18, 2019 and the meeting minutes of the Joint Meeting of City/Township of January 22, 2019 **Voice Vote: All Ayes.**

COMMUNICATIONS: The clerk noted that the 2018 fourth quarter report has been received from the Portage County Combined Health District.

DELEGATIONS: None

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS: Mr. Kluge noted on the second page of the Fire Department report, it states they were not awarded the MARCs radio grant. There being no other comments, a motion was made by Mr. Kluge, seconded by Mr. Kairis to accept the reports of officials. **Voice Vote: All Ayes.**

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

President Bica reported that committee meetings will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019 starting at 5:30.

Utilities: Mr. Moskun stated that this committee has nothing to report. A meeting will be held February 11.

Information Systems: Ms. Michael stated this committee had several items on the agenda. If needed a committee meeting will be held February 11.

Planning Committee: Mr. Kairis said this committee is sponsoring two items on the agenda. A meeting will be held February 11.

Committee of the Whole: President Bica said the Committee of the Whole will be held Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 7:00 P.M.

Public Health & Public Safety: Mr. Kluge said this committee is sponsoring two items on the agenda. A meeting will be held February 11.

Streets & Sidewalks: Mr. Harper said this committee has two items for consideration. A meeting will be held Monday, February 11.

Personnel: The clerk said there is one item on the agenda and a meeting will be required on February 11.

Community & Economic Development: Mr. Ribelin said this committee has no items on the agenda. If a meeting is needed, it will be held February 11.

Cemetery: Mr. Ribelin said the board met landscape architects. They haven't made a decision as to which one they are going with at this time. One headed the landscape architecture department at Kent State and the other is a former Ravenna resident who is now in Columbus, Ohio. They also discussed about the possibility of revisiting a land swap with the City for land on the south side of the cemetery. There is fence line that runs across, jogs in, etc. and they would like to straighten that fence

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out and swap some land with the City. He's already talked with Mayor Seman about it. The cemetery had been closed because of the ice but someone went back in there and got stuck. A tow truck was sent in and that got stuck so they had to send another tow truck in.

First Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-012: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE TOTAL SUM OF \$6,761.39 FROM VARIOUS FUNDS AS OUTLINED IN EXHIBIT "A" FOR NETWORK SWITCHES AND COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Michael said this was discussed in committee there is a forensic computer needed in the Police Department as well as several network switches.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Ribelin moved to waive the requirement that legislation be read at three separate meetings. Ms. Michael seconded the motion. **Vote: All Ayes.** Mr. Harper moved to approve this Ordinance as an emergency measure for the reason set forth in the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Michael. **Vote: All Ayes.** A motion was made by Mr. Ribelin, seconded by Mr. Kluge that Ordinance No. 2019-012 be adopted. **Vote: All Ayes.** The President of Council declared Ordinance 2019-012 adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-013: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, ACCORDING TO LAW, FOR THE WEST HIGHLAND AVENUE PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, ACCORDING TO THE SPECIFICATIONS NOW ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Harper said this authorizes the bidding for the project. This is a \$138,000.00 project of which the majority will be paid through CDBG grant and partially paid for by City funds.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Harper moved to waive the requirement that legislation be read at three separate meetings. Mr. Kairis seconded the motion. **Vote: All Ayes.** Ms. Michael moved to approve this Ordinance as an emergency measure for the reason set forth in the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harper. **Vote: All Ayes.** A motion was made by Mr. Kluge, seconded by Mr. Ribelin that Ordinance No. 2019-013 be adopted. **Vote: All Ayes.** The President of Council declared Ordinance 2019-013 adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-014: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, ACCORDING TO LAW, FOR THE 2019 PAVING PROGRAM, TO INCLUDE ASPHALT, CONCRETE STREETS, CRACK SEALING, SIDEWALKS AND STRIPING, PURSUANT TO SPECIFICATIONS NOW ON FILE IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Harper said this allows the mayor to bid out the project. The total project this summer will be approximately \$996,500.00 which will be paid for through the paving levy fund.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Kairis moved to waive the requirement that legislation be read at three separate meetings. Mr. Kluge seconded the motion. **Vote: All Ayes.** Ms. Michael moved to approve this Ordinance as an emergency measure for the reason set forth in the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harper. **Vote: All Ayes.** A motion was made by Mr. Harper, seconded by Mr. Kluge that Ordinance No. 2019-014 be adopted. **Vote: All Ayes.** The President of Council declared Ordinance 2019-014 adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-015: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE DOPPELT TRAIL DEVELOPMENT FUND TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN FOR A TRAIL FROM THE HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the first time, by title only.

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Mr. Kairis said this grant has already been applied for and is a very competitive grant. The plan would be to connect the hike and bike trail to the downtown area. This is a private funding grant.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Harper moved to waive the requirement that legislation be read at three separate meetings. Mr. Kluge seconded the motion. **Vote: All Ayes.** Mr. Kairis moved to approve this Ordinance as an emergency measure for the reason set forth in the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Michael. **Vote: All Ayes.** A motion was made by Mr. Ribelin, seconded by Mr. Kluge that Ordinance No. 2019-015 be adopted. **Vote: All Ayes.** The President of Council declared Ordinance 2019-015 adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-016: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT SECTIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH NEW MATTER; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Kairis said this is housekeeping done semi-annually, posting the ordinances in the codified ordinances and on the internet.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Kluge moved to waive the requirement that legislation be read at three separate meetings. Mr. Kairis seconded the motion. **Vote: All Ayes.** Ms. Michael moved to approve this Ordinance as an emergency measure for the reason set forth in the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ribelin. **Vote: All Ayes.** A motion was made by Mr. Harper, seconded by Mr. Moskun that Ordinance No. 2019-016 be adopted. **Vote: All Ayes.** The President of Council declared Ordinance 2019-016 adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-017: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING MODIFICATIONS TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1340 AFL-CIO, PURSUANT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WAGE REOPENER FOR THE YEAR 2019, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the first time, by title only.

Mayor Seman said this is a result of the reopener with the Fire Department. The base pay increase is consistent with the other employees of 2.5%. There are three documents attached to the legislation. The first was the pay increase. The second was a one-time payment increase to the certification for paramedics that amounted to \$1,850.00. That was added to the previous agreement to come out to \$2,040.00. That will not carryover and is a one-time stipend. They will be looking at this in negotiations next year about possibly changing this because all of the firefighters are now paramedics. That was put into place to encourage them to become paramedics at the time. It is a viable part of the contract at this point in time. The last one is a Memorandum of Understanding which was suggested by the Firefighters Local stating the supplemental agreement should be prorated if an individual starts later or leaves, retires, etc., to get it prorated for the time they were here. In the past, when the stipend was issued, they got the whole thing. The firefighters thought it would be best if they were paid for the time they are here. The monthly proration is \$253.00.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Ribelin moved to waive the requirement that legislation be read at three separate meetings. Mr. Moskun seconded the motion. **Vote: All Ayes.** Mr. Harper moved to approve this Ordinance as an emergency measure for the reason set forth in the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kluge. **Vote: All Ayes.** A motion was made by Ms. Michael, seconded by Mr. Kairis that Ordinance No. 2019-017 be adopted. **Vote: All Ayes.** The President of Council declared Ordinance 2019-017 adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 2019-018: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2018 LISTED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Cecora said advances are for grant activity. The one transfer is to return funds to the source of origin.

There being no further comments or questions, Ms. Michael moved to waive the requirement that legislation be read at three separate meetings. Mr. Kairis seconded the motion. **Vote: All Ayes.** Mr. Ribelin moved to approve this Ordinance as an emergency measure for the reason set forth in the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Michael. **Vote: All Ayes.** A motion was made by Mr. Harper, seconded by Mr. Kluge that Ordinance No. 2019-018 be adopted. **Vote: All Ayes.** The President of Council declared Ordinance 2019-018 adopted.

Second Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-006: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH JOSEPH COOLEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 450 LAKE AVENUE, RAVENNA, OHIO; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$5,000.00 FROM 219 REVOLVING LOAN FUND (UDAG) FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Kairis said this is the property on Lake Avenue where the City is trying to get it cleaned up. The purchase agreement has not been attached or received at this point in time.

Mr. Cimino said it was sent to the property owner's attorney and they are waiting for it to be returned. He's not sure why the agreement hasn't come back. The property owner has a certain period of time to move things out of there. He hears that the owner has started that process.

It was the consensus of those present that the legislation remain on second reading.

Third Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE 2018-129: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DELINQUENT DEBT COLLECTION AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT AMBULANCE BILLS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Cecora said he had a productive and good conversation with the Attorney General's office. This is nothing new and they've been doing this for about seven years. He made handwritten notes and is not able to put his hands on those at this time regarding the amounts, terms, programs, etc.

It was the consensus of those present that the matter would be discussed in the Public Health & Safety Committee meeting next week.

Old Business: Mr. Ribelin asked where they are with the contract for the Economic Development Director; being between the City, Township and the private enterprise.

Mr. Cimino explained they have been going back and forth and the last he's heard of it, he wasn't sure the dollar amounts were exactly right as to what entity would be contributing. They are now trying to get back together to make sure they are all on the same page.

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New Business: None

Mayor's Remarks: Mayor Seman said just to follow up on Mr. Ribelin's question, they are meeting every Wednesday for an hour with Peggy DiPaola and Jim DiPaola representing the township and himself. They are pressing forward. They've been discussing the urgency of getting this in place. It has not been forgotten and there is a meeting scheduled for this Wednesday.

Mayor Seman went on to say there was a very good turnout for the State of the City at UH this past week. The editorial in the paper this past Sunday was positive about the City moving forward. There are still caveats they have to look out after because there are public entities who are facing severe financial problems. Since the City is financially sound they still need to be financially prudent. They are in a good spot but have to be careful. They can slide back as quickly as move forward, sometimes faster.

Mayor Seman said they are all aware of the fire at the Riddle Block 9 building. It's his understanding the fire began in the basement of the building but the smoke went through the entire building. The Ravenna Fire Department was the only department on the scene without the MARCs radios. They had help from other departments, Rootstown, Township and Kent. That's a rather large building and smoke was coming out at a number of places. It was really hard to tell where the fire was but it was located quickly. The response time of all departments was excellent. They were very fortunate it happened at 10:00 in the morning and not in 2:00 in the morning. He thinks the smoke damage could have been a lot worse and it would certainly have been a problem if people didn't wake up. It went about as well as it could. The cleanup crews have been working on getting it cleaned up. Guido's is reopened. For the most part Guido's had smoke damage. He thought the departments all performed very well. It was still very cold that day so any extra water ran out onto the street and freezing. They had to call for a salt truck to keep the traction they needed. The residents were rushed out of their apartments and the theater opened their doors for the people. They served popcorn and sodas. The Red Cross then showed up and took over the placement of people who needed help. All in all, things went the way they are supposed to. He still hasn't been told what the cause of the fire was at this point in time.

Mr. Kairis asked, what, if anything, was the disadvantage for firefighters not having the MARCs radios.

Mayor Seman said the others could talk with each other specifically. It did not create a real issue for them because of the locale that they couldn't deal with it. But everybody is switching to the MARCs and the idea of doing that they will be able to communicate with all of the other different parts of the safety forces; whether it's the county, the Sheriff's Department, Township, etc., they will be able to hear and speak with them. If you got into a situation where there is a larger disaster and had to move a lot of people, they would need those kind of communications. That's something they need to seriously look at getting them.

Mayor Seman said the status of the auctions in the old Record-Courier building; they are talking about doing one this Friday. In order to do that, they must first show they have addressed all of the issues for the Fire Department and for the Building Department and get a certificate of occupancy. Ray Harner is helping them with getting it done. There are concerns about the possibility of other buildings going up on his own property. They've been to the Planning Commission once that involves the same people operating the auction. He has put a lot of effort in making it work for them. The people who attend the auctions have become fervent patrons after being at one auction. They are very defensive of having it available. It does increase the downtown traffic on Friday nights. There are people walking from place to place, getting something to eat, going to the winery, Icy Blast. They are all busy on Friday nights. Between the theater and the auction, there is quite a crowd.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M. The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President